

A Maundy Thursday Reflection

INTROIT

As we are gathered

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our service of reflection for Maundy Thursday.

We will hear the story of Jesus and his disciples as they meet for their final meal together and reflect in words and music on the events of that night.

We will hear these stories safe in the knowledge that Sunday will come and that we will see the glorious resurrection.

LET US PRAY

Lord, we praise you that, although your majesty and your sovereignty take our breath away, your overpowering love holds us and keeps us safe; and although you are the one with authority who inhabits eternity, in Jesus Christ you came to us and you spoke in words and ways that we could understand.

We praise you for Christ and for the way he shared that Passover meal with his disciples; though they did not understand what he was saying to them, he still sought to prepare them for what was to happen. We praise you that, though he was the King of creation, the Lord of eternity and the Son of God, he humbled himself and, as he washed the disciples' feet, he took the role of a household slave.

We praise you for the example of servant hood that he has implanted at the heart of the gospel and infused into our walk with him.

We thank you that he has shown us how true greatness is found in putting service to you and the needs of others before our own expectations and personal satisfaction. We praise you that, even at that critical moment in his life and ministry, his thoughts were for others and his prayers were focused on your glory.

We praise you for Jesus and we bring our prayers in his name.

Amen.

John 13: 1-17

13 It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."

9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"

10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.

12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. 13 "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

MUSIC

Jesu, Jesu

With death foreshadowed you knelt; a servant embracing, cleansing blessing – touch of love.

LET US PRAY

Lord, we commit ourselves to serve you by serving one another

We commit ourselves to love you by loving one another.

We commit ourselves to bring you glory and to honour your name through the lives we live and through our words of witness to your love. Amen

John 13: 31-35

³¹ Jesus said, “Now the Son of Man is glorified and God is glorified in him. ³² If God is glorified in him,^[c] God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once.

³³ “My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

³⁴ “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

MUSIC

A New Commandment

Mark 14: 22-26

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take it; this is my body.”

²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

24 "This is my blood of the^[c] covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. 25 "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

26 When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

MUSIC Let us break bread together

With betrayal in the air you lay at the table, a rabbi listening, teaching feeding – the word of life.

LET US PRAY:

Father, our Father, we thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for his faithfulness to the task that you gave him and for his obedience to your will for his life; for his grace and kindness to those around him and for his love for those who betrayed him, rejected him and crucified him.

We thank you that he is for us a picture of your endless loving kindness; that your love is not something simply to know about, but to be experienced in our own lives; that your grace and mercy are not just words in the Bible, but can be a reality in our own hearts.

We thank you for the way Jesus washed the disciples' feet and for his example of care, compassion and servanthood; for his challenge to us to love each other just as he has loved us.

Father we bring our prayer of thanks in the name of the servant King
Amen

MUSIC Brother sister let me serve you.

With the journey set you waited, the Son of God weeping, praying, pleading – the light of the world!
Amen